

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION NEA-12

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P R 081650Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3100

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL ZMIR

S E C R E T ANKARA 01776

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR,TU

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL REGARDING POPPY BAN

1. AMB. ESENBEL'S CONSULTATIONS ARE NEARING COMPLETION HERE, AND HE WILL BE LEAVING ANKARA FOR WASHINGTON SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 10. I INVITED HIM FOR PRIVATE LUNCHEON FRIDAY, MARCH 8, TO GO OVER RESULTS OF HIS CONSULTATIONS. HE HAS BEEN TO SEE FONMIN AND PRIMIN (TWICE) AS WELL AS OTHER SENIOR FIGURES IN NEW GOVERNMENT, AND HE HAD APPOINTMENT SCHEDULED WITH AILING PRES. KORUTURK LATE FRIDAY AFTERNOON. ESENBEL AND I DISCUSSED SEVERAL SUBJECTS, AND FOLLOWING IS REPORT ON THAT PORTION OF OUR CONVERSATION DEALING WITH POPPY BAN. (OTHER TOPICS REPORTED SEPTELS.)

2. ESENBEL HAS CLEARLY CONCLUDED AS RESULT OF HIS TALKS HERE THAT GOT WILL PERMIT POPPIES TO BE GROWN AGAIN IN LIMITED WAY AND UNDER CAREFUL SURVEILLANCE. IT WAS MY DEFINITE IMPRESSION THAT HE NOW VIEWS THIS AS FORGONE CONCLUSION, EVEN THOUGH IN FORMAL TECHNICAL SENSE DECISION MAY NOT HAVE YET BEEN TAKEN. HE KEPT STRESSING TO ME THAT THERE HAD TO BE A CHANGE WITH

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RESPECT TO SITUATION IN POPPY GROWING AREAS. HE ALSO SAID THAT

HE CONVINCED THAT THIS NOT A PLOY FOR EXTRA MONEY, THAT EVEN IF LATTER WERE FORTHCOMING, IT WOULD NOT HEAD OFF BAN RECISION. HE ADDED HOWEVER THAT GOT WANTED TO BOTH TAKZO THIS DECISION, AND THEN HANDLE ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN CONCERT WITH USG, AND IN NO SENSE APPEAR TO BE ACTING IN DEFIANCE OF USG.

HE SAID

GOT OBVIOUSLY HOPED US WOULD HELP FINANCIALLY TO ESTABLISHMENT OF MECHANICS WHICH WOULD PREVENT ANY DIVERSION OF VERY LIMITED POPPY CROP, BUT THAT WITH OR WITHOUT HELP FROM USG, GOT WAS DETERMINED TO MOUNT A SURVEILLANCE OPERATION WHICH WOULD GIVE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE TO US AND REST OF WORLD.

3. WHEN I EXPRESSED DISMAY OVER WHAT HE REPORTED TO ME, HE BACKTRACKED SLIGHTLY BY EMPHASIZING FINAL DECISION NOT REPEAT NOT TAKEN, BUT IT CLEAR TO ME FROM EVERYTHING HE SAID THAT HE REGARDS THIS AS MERE TECHNICALITY. I WENT OVER WITH HIM THE US POSITION AND NOTED COMPELLING AND FORCFUL NATURE OF THE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF MAINTAINING THE BAN. I ASKED HOW HE PLANNED TO ANSWER SUCH ARGUMENTS WHEN THEY WERE INEVITABLY PUT TO HIM BY AMERICAN CONGRESS AND PRESS. HE SAID THAT ALL HE COULD DO WAS TO REPEAT WHAT HE SAID TO ME, NAMELY THAT THE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT SITUATION WAS NOT POSSIBLE, THAT NO DEMOCRATICALLY PRODUCED GOVERNMENT COULD HAVE EVER AGREED TO IT IN THE FIRST PLACE, AND THAT THE GOT WISHED TO WORK WITH THE US IN ENSURING THAT THE LIMITED CULTIVATION OF POPPIES COULD BE RLOUSLY # CONTROLLED. I RESPONDED THAT ON THE BASIS OF MY MANY YEARS AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS I WAS CONVINCED THAT SUCH ARGUMENTATION WOULD NOT BE SUFFIEIENT OR EFFECTIVE.

4. I NEXT ASKED HIM WHERE WE WENT FROM HERE, NOTING THAT IMPRESSION I HAD GAINED FROM FONMIN WAS THAT GOT BELIEVED NEXT STEP WAS FOR ESENBEL TO CONTACT SENIOR WASHINGTON OFFICIALS FOR FURTHER HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSION. ESENBEL SAID THAT AS SOON AS HE GOT BACK TO WASHINGTON, HE WAS GOING TO ASK FOR MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY SISCO, AT WHICH TIME HE WOULD BASICALLY REPEAT THE SAME THING HE HAD SAID TO ME. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD ALREADY ADVISED HIS GOVERNMENT THAT RESULT OF THIS WOULD BE THAT SISCO WOULD COMMUNICATE USG RESPONSE THROUGH ME AND THAT LOCUS OF DISCUSSIONS WOULD THEN SHIFT BACK TO ANKARA.

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5. COMMENT: UNFORTUNATELY I AM NOT VERY SURPRISED THAT ESENBEL HAS REACHED THE CONCLUSION HE HAS. I AGREE WITH HIM THAT AS OF NOW THE GOVT HAS PRETTY MUCH MADE UP ITS MIND TO AUTHORIZE A LIMITED RESUMPTION OF POPPY GROWING UNDER CAREFUL SURVEILLANCE. HOWEVER THIS IS A DECISION THAT HAS NOT YET FINALLY AND FORMALLY BEEN TAKEN. AND BECAUSE OF GOT CONTINUING CONCERN OVER USG REACTION, I BELIEVE WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO HEAD IT OFF, EVEN IF THE ODDS AT THIS POINT ARE BADLY WEIGHTED AGAINST US.

TO HAVE ANY CHANCE AT ALL, HOWEVER, THE ARGUMENTATION THAT I
HAVE BEEN MAKING HERE MUST BE FORCEFULLY REITERATED TO ESENBEL
IN THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF HIS RETURN BY VERY HIGH-LEVEL US
OFFICIALS. IN ADDITION, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD HAVE READY AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE, FOR USE AT APPROPRIATE MOMENT, A PROPOSAL OF
INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT IN FORMER POPPY GROWING
AREAS SO THAT GOT CAN BEFORE LONG HAVE AT LEAST SOME ALTERNA-
TIVE TO BEGIN CHEWING OVER.

MACOMBER

NOTE BY OC/T: PARA 3 LINE 13 #AS RECEIVED, WILL BE SERVICED UPON
REQUEST

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